Revision of Rates of Royalty for Coal

1350. SHRI PRAVAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY:
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the revision in the rates of royalty for different grades of coal which has been due since 1985 has not been finalised so far, although the State Government of Orissa, West Bengal and Bihar have put forward a proposal in this regard suggesting that royalty rates be fixed on *ad valorem* basis; and

(b) if so, by when the Central Government propose to revise the rates of royalty on coal?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) and (b) Section 9 (3) of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957 provides that the Central Government may enhance or reduce the rate of royalty but stipulates that the Central Government shall not enhance the rate or royalty more than once during any period of three years. Prior to 1986, the stipulated period was four years. The last revision of royalty on coal was in 1981 and, therefore, royalty could have been revised from 1985 and once in three years thereafter.

The issue of revision of rates of royalty on coal was considered by the Government. Some State Governments have also represented to the Central Govt. to revise the rates of royalty on coal and fix it on an *ad valorem* basis.

The rates of royalty on coal have not been revised because some State Governments have levied cesses at high rates which have contributed to substantial increase in price of coal paid by the users. There is no maximum time limit prescribed under Mines & Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957 for revision in rates of royalty.

Passenger Traffic in International Fights

1351. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the ratio of incoming and outgoing passengers in the four International Airports during 1989-90;

(b) whether any new international airline is going to operate through the Calcutta Airport; and

(c) what steps are being taken to introduce more international flights through Calcutta and Madras airports ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) The ratio of incoming to outgoing passengers at Bombay, Calcutta , Delhi and Madras airports is 0·905, 0·998, 0·987 and 1·015 respectively.

(b) No new foreign airline has filed Schedule with the Government in the recent past for operating new flights to Calcutta airport.

(c) During the bilateral air services negotiations with foreign countries, Government offers traffic rights to foreign carriers at Calcutta and Madras airports more liberally as compared to Delhi and Bombay airports.

Assurance on Drugs

1352. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the News-item which appeared in 'The Hindustan Times' on the 4th August, 1990 captioned "Assurances on drugs denied"